

Reference

- Hering, M. 1921. *Coleophora hydrolapathella* Mart. Hering, spec. nov.
Eine Neue Kleinschmetterlingsart aus Deutschland. *Tijd. Ent.*,
64: 179.

AMPHIMALLON OCHRACEUM KNOCH (COL.: SCARABAEIDAE):
RECENT CAPTURES IN WALES AND SUSSEX, WITH A BRIEF SURVEY
OF EARLIER RECORDS. — The above beetle has usually been
considered very rare as a British species. Although less so
now than formerly, and occasionally found in numbers at
a particular time and place, it has a very restricted and dis-
continuous range and tends to be erratic and extremely
localised. The recorded localities fall into five well-separated
areas: N and S. Wales, N. Cornwall, the Berkshire Chilterns
and the South Downs in E. Sussex.

In the early afternoon of 2nd July, 1971, in very warm
sunny and windless conditions, a succession of these chafers
was observed by Messrs. H. N. Michaelis and J. M. Chalmers-
Hunt flying low over a limestone hillside covered with rock-
rose in flower, above Llandudno Junction, Caerns.; one was
brought to me by the latter entomologist. Further, Mrs. M. J.
Morgan took one at Porth Ysgo on the Llyn Peninsula,
Caerns., flying low over vegetation at the side of the steep
cliff path above the beach, at 4 p.m., 17.vii.69. Previous North
Welsh records are of last century: Holyhead (Stevens and
Brewer), and "North Wales" in plenty in 1855 (Weaver). In
South Wales it has occurred at Tenby, both in earlier times
(Capt. Parry) and some 20 years ago to Mr. Ernest Lewis.

In Cornwall, Dr. C. G. Lamb met with it in some numbers
at Padstow in 1911, and there are examples in the B.M. (N.H.)
labelled "North Cornwall/C. F. Woodforde" taken in the
same year, and quite likely therefore at the same place.

In the past five years or so, the beetle has been taken
on the E. Sussex downs: one near Birling Gap, Eastbourne,
by Mr. R. D. Dumbrell, one at Wilmington by Mr. P. J.
Hodge, and several near Newhaven by Mr. R. A. Jones very
recently. These have not yet been positively identified as *A.*
ochraceum, but I feel very little doubt about them since all
were caught flying by day and the species is already known
from that general area (Cuckmere Haven and Ditchling
Downs, but rarely).

The late Dr. N. H. Joy found it in 1904 flying on a hillside
at Streatley, Berks., in some quantity; and I have seen one
or more taken by him at Aldworth, near Newbury. He gives
an interesting account of its habits at the former place (1905,
Ent. mon. Mag., 41: 16-18), with notes on its distinctions from
the far more common crepuscular *A. solstitialis* L. Joy's
suggestion (p. 17) that we may have a third species of
Amphimallon in Britain — supported to some extent by
Champion's appended note (p. 18) — has never, I believe,
been followed up; it is the more plausible in that there are
several other closely similar species in Europe. — A. A.
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